

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/11/77

Ms. Amy Hirsch
Good Morning America
7 W 66 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10023

Dear Amy,

Because I have not yet received payment for the New York-Los Angeles fare I have been intending to write you for several days. I write now for this reason and because I have just heard a tape of your show with Playboy's lie-detector story on Ray.

If you can expedite the payment to me I would appreciate it. It has been almost two months now. During this time I have run into unexpected costs, medical and in connection with my FOIA suits and government compliance with them.

Your airing of the Playboy promises was completely legitimate. Their story also may be, if from my experiences with the people they are not. I look forward to reading the article itself.

In all of this there seems to be no place for the human mind, no room for fact. Now the gadget is substituted for fact. The gadget makes fact immaterial.

While I cannot say that all of my extensive effort has been devoted to seeking the fact of the King assassination, I can say that this effort is more extensive than that of any other and far and away much more productive - of fact, not conjectures or interpretations of fact or gismos. I think I can also say that I have spent much more time with James Earl Ray than another other than a fellow prisoner from the time he was captured in England. I think I know him pretty well from the many days I have spent with him and a very large correspondence. He has his own mind sets, beliefs and hangups. I do not believe it is possible to read polygraph results without understanding of the man and the way his mind works. I do believe that the most the machine can do is record what made him stress. Why it made him stress is another matter.

I am not writing seeking another appearance. As you may recall I had no particular interest in leaving my work to be on the show. With what has happened to me since then I am limited to about a thousand yards of walking at a time, so I don't want to travel now, either.

What the show makes certain to me is that as I said, Ray is desperate. He knows better than what he has been doing. And saying. Like that business about the alleged card in the car. That was checked out in 1973 and found baseless. This desperation and the various exploitations serve to bury truth that much deeper and to obfuscate fact.

My concern is about this fact, its meaning in the crime and what the crime has meant to the country. My concern also is over what to do with this fact. I have begun to write a book about it and I have arranged for it to be a permanent public archive. An archive is fine for history. So is a book, if it receives attention. A book also can do some good in the present, can inform people. Because of added health limitations I have been slowed down in it and will be.

You really know nothing about me. Your function is not to know people but to produce them to entertain. So you really have no basis for knowing whether or not I am for real, whether I speak truthfully or have the materials I represent. Jack Anderson's associate, Les Whitten, is one who can give you an indication.

I would like very much for someone in another part of ABC to see what I have. I think it will make an unprecedented "special" and can have equally unprecedented consequences. To this end also I am sending Steve Bell a carbon. I hope, of course, that one of you might speak to the right person.

We are but an hour from Washington, near the Fort Detrick about which you have been hearing and probably reading.

By looking at what I have ABC can see whether or not I represent it fairly.

Thanks if either of you makes the effort.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg